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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TRANSITION FROM FIRE INSTRUCTOR TO TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Q: I want to teach State Fire Training Courses. Do I need to obtain Fire Instructor I or Training Instructor Certification in order to apply to teach?

A: No. Certification is not required to become a registered instructor. Registered instructors go through an application and review process that is separate from certification. Certification is a professional recognition of training, education, and experience. Many fire departments use certification as a benchmark for application, promotion and pay incentives.

Q: I'm currently a registered instructor. How does this impact my instructor status?

A: If you are already registered to teach classes with SFT, this implementation has no impact on you as long as your instructor registration remains in good standing. The one exception is if you are planning to become a registered Master Instructor. More detailed information, including a timeline is available on our website.

Q: I'm attending Level 2 Instructor classes with the intent of eventually becoming a registered Master Instructor. How does this affect me?

A: You will need to finish your classes and become registered before December 31st, 2009 and take an instructor update class. If you are not able to meet the deadline and attend the update class, you will have to go back and take Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C before you can become registered to teach instructor courses. You will not be allowed to enroll in an instructor update class until you have become a registered Master Instructor.

Q: I am in the process of taking the courses required for my Fire Officer Certification. I am taking Fire Instructor 1A this spring and was not planning to take Fire Instructor 1B until next spring. Now what do I do?

A: Because of a format change in the updated Instructor curriculum, the content previously taught in Fire Instructor 1A will now be taught in Training Instructor 1B and vice versa. The Training Instructor Transition Timeline provides you not only with implementation dates, but also with a list of the combination of classes that will be accepted for Fire Officer Certification. It is important to note that Training Instructor 1C will not be required for Fire Officer Certification. In this particular instance, you would take **Fire** Instructor 1A this spring and **Training** Instructor 1A (new format) next spring in order to meet the course work for Fire Officer.

Q: I've heard that you extended the deadline for Fire Instructor I Certification to September 30, 2009. I am going to make sure I enroll in Instructor 1A and 1B so I can apply before the deadline. Can I take the new format – Training Instructor 1A and 1B to apply for Fire Instructor I Certification?

A: No. If you're applying for Fire Instructor I before the deadline, the only classes we'll accept toward that certification are the old format Fire Instructor 1A and 1B. These are the classes that were designed for this certification and they include the certification exam at the end of each class which would allow you to apply. We understand that there may be limited offerings in the new format. The extension for certification was geared more towards those individuals who had already attended the required classes and had not yet submitted their application for certification. If you are only able to enroll in the new format, Training Instructor classes, you'll need to wait to apply for Training Instructor Certification when it's available.